

Spring Township

To: Mr. Dave Navecky

Docket No. FD 35952

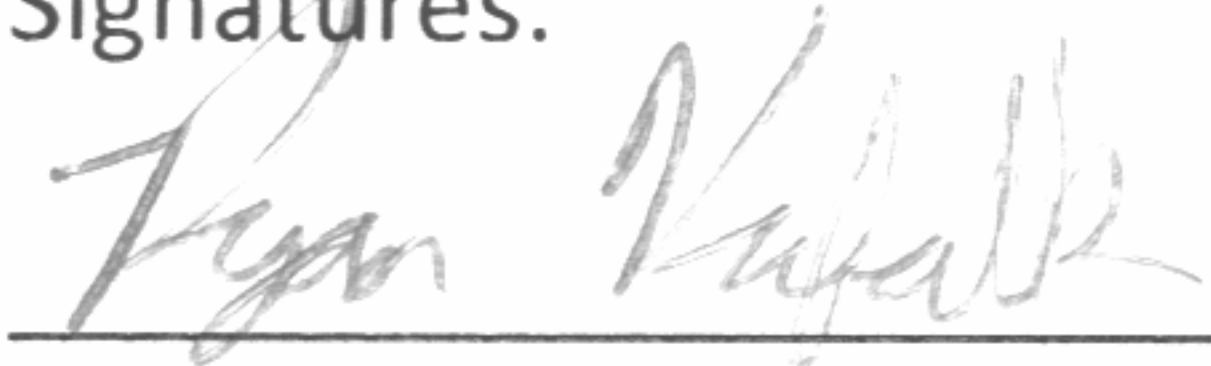
Spring Township in Boone County, Illinois held a meeting on Wednesday May 11th, 2016 and voted to approve sending a letter addressing concerns that the board and the community hold about the impacts of the proposed Great Lakes Basin Railroad. The concerns are as follows:

1. Emergency Services would face delays responding to emergencies within the township due to the high volume of trains that could be traveling the railroad. These delays could ultimately result in loss of life or property.
2. Spring Township's unique geologic features allow water to be easily accessible underground for household wells. Along with being easily accessible it is also very easily polluted. A book called the Geology for Planning in Boone and Winnebago Counties written by Richard Berg, John Kempton, and Amy Stecyk addresses the issues of potential water pollution in the area as related to potential landfills, agriculture chemicals, and large amounts of household septic systems. The water could very easily be polluted by a spill of any type from a railroad accident. An executive summary of this book can be found at- <https://www.ideals.illinois.edu/handle/2142/88801> .
3. Drainage in Spring Township is a very important issue to farmers. Farmers have invested heavily in drainage tile for their fields in large part due to the high water table in Spring Township. Many of those tiles will be damaged and become very difficult and costly to fix. This will cause portions of fields to become too wet to grow profitable crops affecting a farmers long term profitability in those fields.
4. Spring township's economy is very heavily based in agriculture. The loss of farm land will lead to decreased efficiency and revenues for those farmers.
5. The cost of this project is extremely high. If the project begins and the Railroad builders lose their funding sources, who is going to be responsible for returning the land back to its original form.
6. Insurance ratings will be lowered for properties that are located near the Proposed Railroad resulting in increased insurance premiums for those owners.
7. Residents that have houses or property adjacent to but not on the route of the Proposed Railroad are going to have their property values negatively affected. How are these residents going to be compensated for their loss?
8. The assessed valuation of property near the Proposed Railroad will be negatively affected. This could result in taxes increasing in the township to make up for the difference.

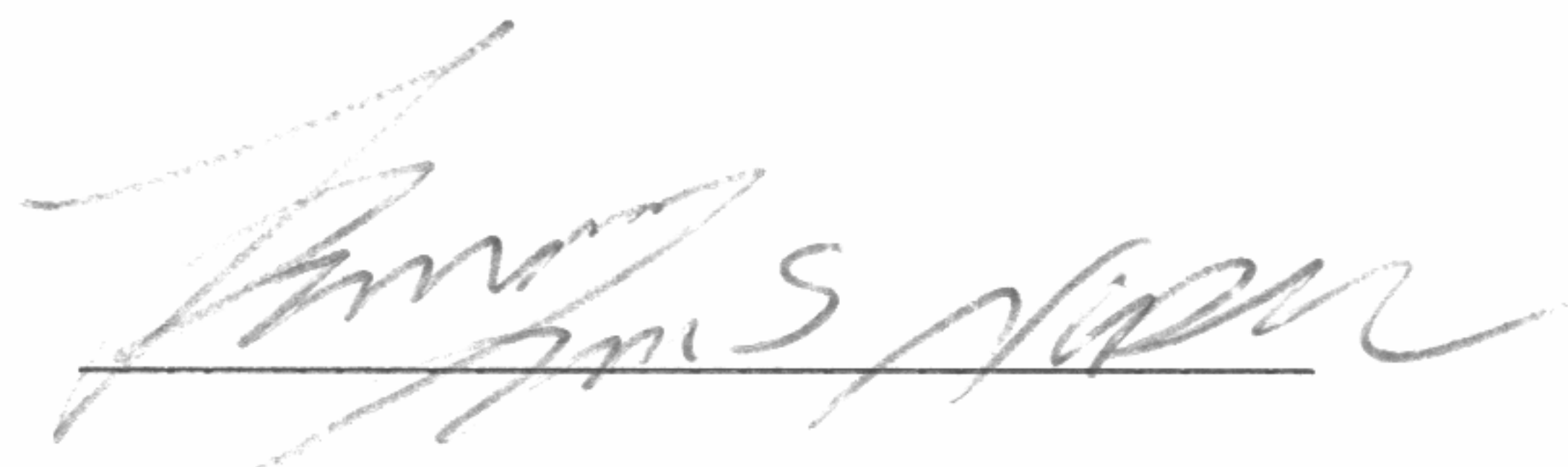
9. If the Proposed Railroad is constructed, damage to township roads will be incurred due to the high volume of construction equipment traversing the roads. The funding for repairing these roads should come from the builders of the railroad. Along the entire route of the railroad this will add significant costs to the construction of the railroad.

In summary, the Proposed Railroad will have many negative effects on the residents of Spring Township. Therefore the Spring Township Board has voted to oppose the Proposed Great Lakes Basin Railroad and approved this letter to the Surface Transportation Board. The Spring Township Board would recommend improving existing rail infrastructure in and around the city of Chicago in order to alleviate congestion in the Chicago Railyards instead of building a whole new rail line to bypass Chicago. The Spring Township Board hopes that the STB approval process will take all of these important issues under consideration through process that will not be influenced by leaders in Washington DC, Railroad Representatives, or any other person that stands to profit from the Proposed Great Lakes Basin Railroad.

Signatures:



Ryan Kufalk- Supervisor



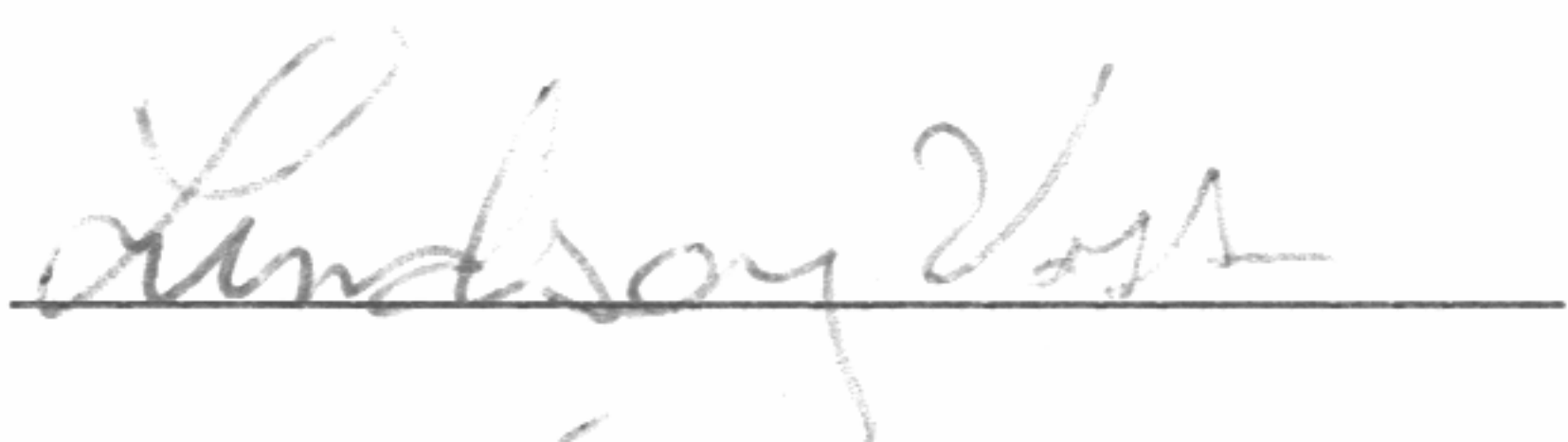
Ben Nash- Trustee



Mike Paulson- Trustee



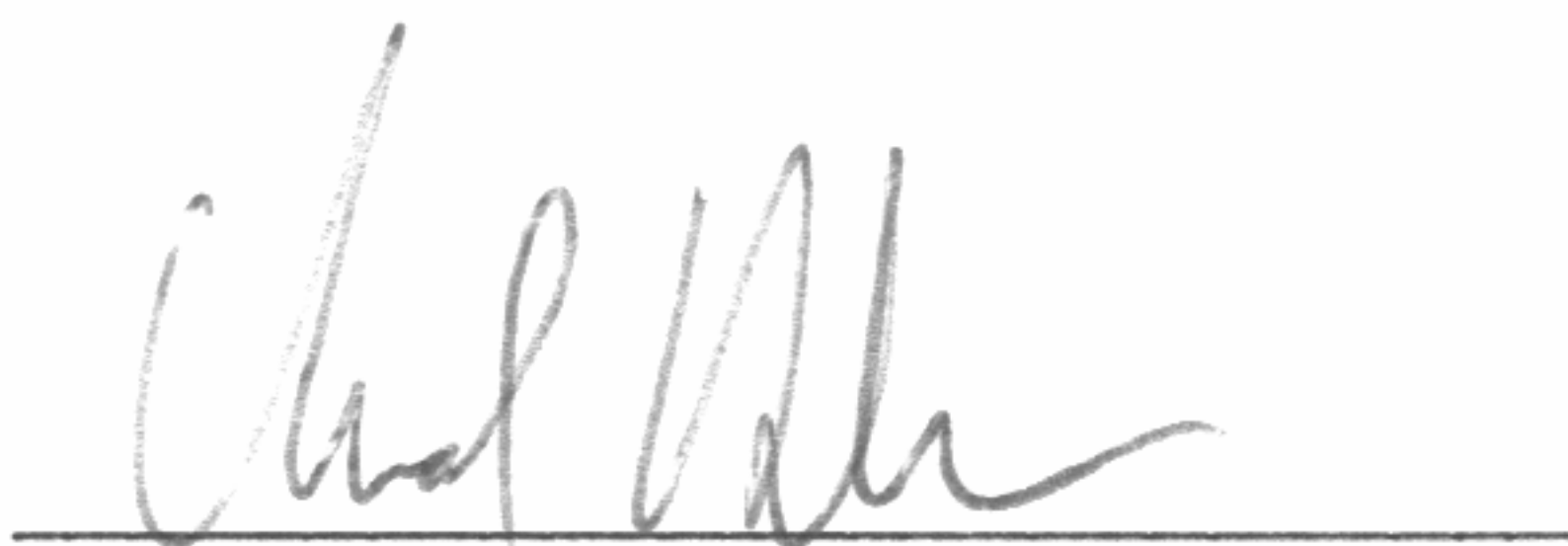
Kevin Stark- Trustee



Lindsey Voss- Trustee



Karen Smiley- Clerk



Chad Harbison- Road Commissioner

Spring Road District